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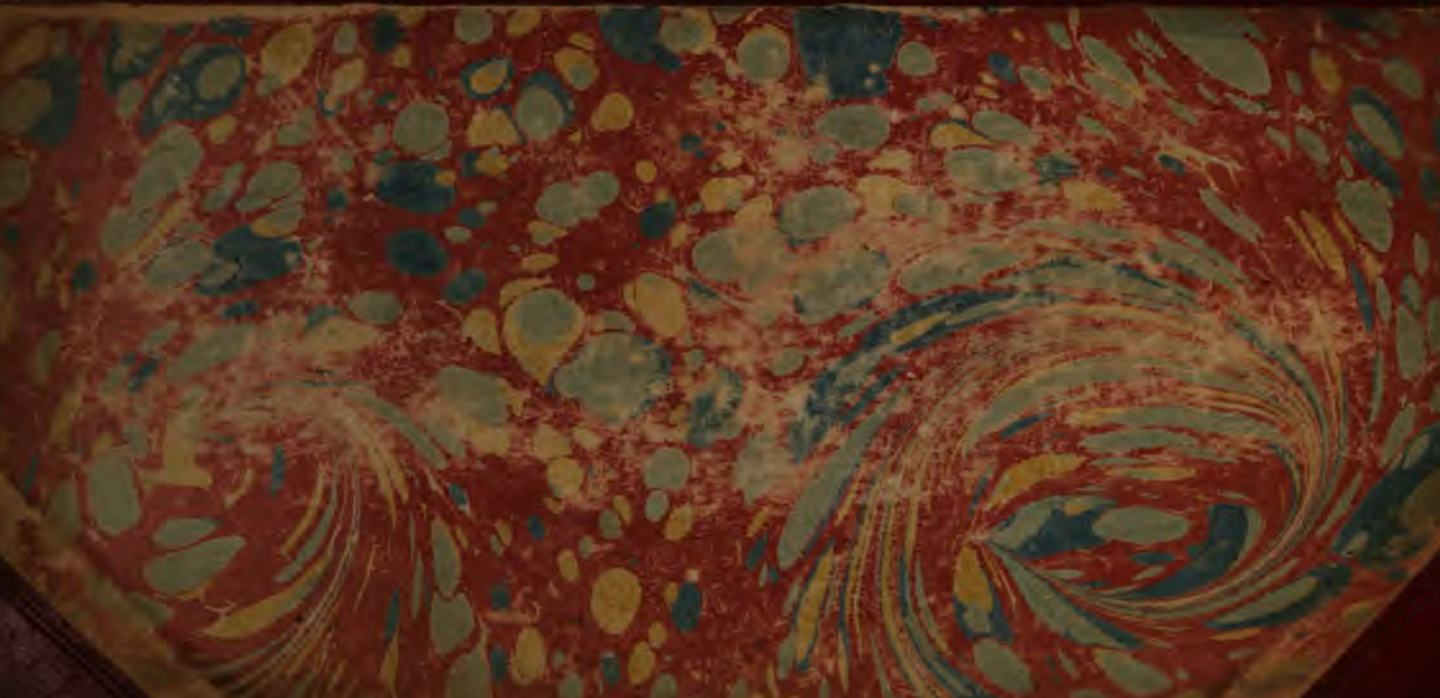

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A Genuine

DIALOGUE, &c.

LÆTITIA. ALICE.

LÆTITIA.

ANY time theſe twelve Months you have promiſed me ſome Account of your *Life*, and *Adventures*.

ALICE.

There's no Time, they ſay, like the Time preſent. Your kind *Keepers* are all *Three* with the *Court* at *Windſor*, and I have no Work to do to Day. Though I am now grown ancient, and poor, and obliged to the *Pariſh* for half my Subſiſtance, and you are youthful, handſom, and maintain'd by no leſs than *Two* great

Lords, and a foreign *Ambaſſador*, neither of whom believe the other's have any Thing to do with you; yet, let me tell you, young *Madam!* I have had my *Time* in the World, as well as the beſt of ye all. I have ſeen golden Days! every Body almoſt have their *Ups* and their *Downs*, and if it had not been for the greateſt *Villain*, and, at the ſame Time, the moſt inconſiderate, raſh *Rogue* the *Gallows* ever groan'd for, I might, perhaps, at this very Day——but it is no Matter! Things are as they are; *Fortune* rules the *Roaſt*, and I am as you ſee me.

LÆTITIA.

Prithee, ALICE, to the Matter in Hand! I long to be acquainted with your *Story*.

ALICE.

Well! if any Body's *Adventures* were ever worth liſtning to, I dare be ſworn, mine

mine are. My laſt *Miſtreſs*, *Heaven* reſt her *Soul!* would hearken whole Nights to my *Travels* into this, and that Part, and was ſo full of her Queſtions!

LÆTITIA.

You don't conſider, it is now late in the Afternoon, and that before *Eight* I am engaged, you know where.

ALICE.

Ay! and I can give a ſhrewd Gueſs with whom too: 'tis no Matter for that! Mum's the Word! but before I begin, I would have you to know by the by, that I have ſeen more Buſineſs, and of a ranker Nature too, ſince I have been for near theſe *five* Years employed up and down in *Taverns* and *Bagnios* than in all my Days before, and that's ſaying a great deal, a great deal, *Miſtreſs* LÆTITIA.

LÆTITIA.

Will you then never come to the Point? How you love to hear your Tongue run!

ALICE.

To tell you the Truth, I remember little or nothing of what paſſed before I was bought by Order of the *Engliſh Embaſſador's Lady* at CONSTANTINOPLE. My Name was then POTINA; when they baptized me, they called me ADELIZA. My *Father's* Name was KAMISCOF, and my Mother's ZILA, by Nation CIRCASSIANS. This is all I know of the Matter, and that I was but juſt turn'd of *Seven*, when my Parents diſpoſed of me to the Maſter of the *Caravan*; at leaſt, he ſaid ſo, and I muſt take his Word for it.

LÆTI-

LÆTITIA.

Will you come to the Time, when you knew what you was about?

ALICE.

I will. My good *Lord Embaſſador* and his *Lady* were ſcarce returned to their native Country, when they both died, and poor ALICE was left to the wide World at the Age of *Fourteen*, a new Suit of Mourning on her Back, and ten Guineas, my *Lady's* Legacy, in her Pocket; lively, and blooming, with a great Diſpoſition for Coquetry, and none at all for Work; for I was bred up in Idleneſs, and rather with an Eye of being Diverting, than of any Uſe to myſelf, as it happens to moſt Children who are taken into great Families after the Manner I was. Before I ſaw *Twelve* Years, I could read my *Lord* and *Lady* faſt aſleep every Night, and had almoſt all the *Romances* by Heart. In ſhort,

every

every Body careſſed me, and flattered me, and being pretty, and full of Spirit, I grew the *Buffoon* of the Houſe.

LÆTITIA.

I want to know how you diſpoſed of your ſelf, when you became a free *Citizen* of the World.

ALICE.

After the Death of my noble *Maſter* and *Miſtreſs*, the Family was immediately diſcharg'd, and, as ſoon as diſcharged, entirely diſperſed; every one for himſelf, and *God* for us all, and the *Devil* take the hindmoſt! was the Word. Now you muſt know, there was one FENTON, a kind of *Steward* to the old *Lord*, and one who had from his Youth, and from nothing, been bred in the Family, and pick'd up Money, by what Means, *God* he beſt knows! this FENTON, I ſay, being rich, and in Years, and having neither Chick or Child in the

the World, received me into his Houſe, either out of Compaſſion to my Youth and Circumſtances; or, it may be, willing in Gratitude to have ſome Care of what his late *Lord*, and departed *Lady* were fond of; and I believe he really lov'd the Family; for he wept bitterly when my *Lord* died; or, perhaps he might have conſidered my Beginning ſomewhat like his own, having, as I ſaid before, been brought up in the Houſe from a poor *Lad*, and a *Foundling*, as they ſay he was——

LÆTITIA.

What's all this to our Purpoſe? FENTON, you ſay, took you into his Houſe.

ALICE.

Mr. FENTON did; I ſaid ſo; but being in Years, as I told you, and crazy, he departs this Life a few Weeks afterwards. Some ſaid, it was occaſioned by his great Sorrow for the Loſs of ſo good a Maſter;

a Maſter; but I don't believe that neither altogether; though ſuch a Shock to a Man full of Ailments——

LÆTITIA.

Will you go on in your *Story?* FENTON, you ſay, dies.

ALICE.

And left me, with *Two Hundred* Pounds for my *Fortune*, whenever I married, to the Care of his Nephew, and Executor, GEORGE VENNER of the City of BRISTOL, who by FENTON's Will had the entire Diſpoſal of me in Wedlock.

LÆTITIA.

VENNER, in ſhort, was appointed your *Guardian.*

ALICE.

Nor did Mr. FENTON act unadviſedly for my Intereſt in ſo doing, as Matters

ters appeared at that Time. VENNER was then a ſingle Man, and in very good Buſineſs.

LÆTITIA.

A BRISTOL Merchant I ſuppoſe.

ALICE.

He was ſo; and ſending for me down to BRISTOL, put me preſently upon managing his Family, as young as I was; for he was a careful, cloſe Man, and thought by that Means to ſave the Wages of a *Houſe-keeper*. But he ſoon found out, that I was no fitter for the Employment he gave me, than to ſail his *Veſſels*, or write in his *Counting Houſe*. Whether he ever had any Thoughts of marrying me himſelf, I can't tell; but, in ſhort, upon this, he takes to *Wife* a neighbouring *Widow*, neither rich, or young; but very well to paſs: a good convenient Match.

LÆTITIA.

Well; but how was you diſpoſed of? for it is very likely——

ALICE.

I believe you have hit on't! It was very likely, and ſo it fell out, that the Houſe was too little for us both: In ſhort, Mrs. VENNER could not bear the Sight of me. Now, forſooth, I was too raw and awkard; then I was too full of Airs. By and by I talked too much. Sometimes I had ſuch a ſtrange, devouring Appetite! Would you know the true Reaſon of her diſliking me? I was too handſom! But as my *Beauty* is long ſince paſt——

LÆTITIA.

Why, as that is paſt, think no more of it, and come to the Point.

ALICE.

ALICE.

Married as he was, I became a Load upon his Hands, which he ſoon got rid of.

LÆTITIA.

As how?

ALICE.

Having very often at the Arrival and ſending out of his *Ships* expreſſed my Deſire of ſeeing foreign Parts, Mrs. VENNER, who hated me, as much as ſhe loved that ſame, took the Hint from thence to perſwade her *Huſband*, to embark me with the next *Cargo* for the WEST INDIES, where, ſhe ſaid, I could not fail of a *Huſband*, recommended from him, and with my *Two Hundred* Pounds in my Pocket.

LÆTITIA.

So!

ALICE.

It happened ſoon after, that he gave the Command of one of his *Veſſels* to his own *Brother*, whom, by the by, he was newly reconciled to upon his Marriage, having refuſed to ſee him for ſome Time before; for he was no better than he ſhould be, and had run himſelf out at Elbow.

LÆTITIA.

No matter!

ALICE.

True! it was none of my Buſineſs; but this Man, it ſeems, was now in his good Graces again, and we ſailed from BRISTOL in the *Margaret Sloop*; for ſo our

our *Ship* was called in Honour of his new *Spouſe*. Now VENNER being a Man of much Gravity, and of a cautious, and ſcruplous Temper, gave ſuch a Charge of me to his *Brother* in the laſt Words he ſaid to us, that it made ſome Impreſſion on him a good Part of the Voyage. But Words you know are Wind. To be brief in my *Story*, after he had tranſacted ſome Buſineſs in the WESTERN ISLANDS, and we were under Sail again, the *Devil* tempted JACK VENNER, for ſo he was called, to tempt me one Moonſhiny Night, when the *Ship*'s Crew were all quiet, and we ſcudded away before a fine, freſh Gale. JACK was ſtrong and well made for his Inches; a little ſquat or ſo; but, in a word, not to be diſlik'd. As for my Part, I was pretty far advanced in my *Sixteenth* Year, and, I think, I may ſay for myſelf that, at thoſe Years, very few——

LÆTITIA.

We all know, what you have told us a *hundred* Times, that at thoſe Years you

you was a tall, ſtrait, black *Girl*, with good *Hair*, and *Teeth*; your *Complexion* ſomewhat inclining to the *Olive*; your *Eyes* ſharp, and ſparkling; your *Mouth* ſmall, and ſmiling; a large *Dimple* in your *Chin*, and a *Mole* upon your left *Cheek*. Now we ſee you a crooked, ſwarthy, old *Hag*; grey, and toothleſs, with your——Will you go on?

ALICE.

We are all, *Miſtreſs* LÆTITIA, as *God* made us, and as *Time* leaves us; and ſo, as I was ſaying, I bordered then upon *Seventeen*. Nay, if I had been younger, what happened, might have come to paſs; for VENNER's Onſet was very rude, and ſudden, and the Surprize of the Thing took away my Senſes for ſome Time. I little dream't of it, I muſt confeſs, from that Quarter. I thought of nothing but getting a good *Huſband*, and ſettling to Advantage in the INDIES; but, in ſhort, what was done could not be helped, and JACK ſwore till he was black

in

in the Face, to marry me the firſt Opportunity. But I the eaſier overlooked VENNER's Delays in performing his Promiſe, when, ſoon after our Arrival at VERA CRUZ, I perceived that young *Don* LOPEZ, the only Son of the rich *Merchant* that received us, and our *Cargo* into his Houſe, was in Love with me. My Buſineſs now was to improve the Inclination of this wealthy *Spaniard*, which I applied my ſelf to with ſuch Succeſs, that in a ſhort Time his *Paſſion* became moſt violent. The *Spaniards*, you know, are naturally very warm, and amorous.

LÆTITIA.

I have heard as much. Nay, I have had ſome Dealings with them my ſelf; but to return to your *Story*.

ALICE.

Don LOPEZ, by my artful Management, grew every Day more and more my *Slave*. His *Dreſs*, his *Looks*, and all his

his *Actions* confeſſed it. *Verſes*, and *Seranades* confirmed it. In a Word, the whole *Town* of VERA CRUZ began to be acquainted with his *Paſſion* for me, and and the old Man, his *Father*, muſt have quickly found it out, had not young LOPEZ prevented the Diſcovery, by throwing himſelf one Day at his Feet, and requeſting his Conſent to take me for his *Wife*, as the only Thing in the World that could make him happy. The haughty *Spaniard* at firſt diſdained my *Fortune*, and *Alliance*, and did but laugh at his *Son*'s Petition; but the young Man was ſo much in earneſt, that he viſibly pined away, and the Uneaſineſs of his Mind was attended by a Fit of Sickneſs, which the *Phyſicians* judg'd incurable, unleſs what he ſo ardently deſired, was immediately applied to his Relief. LOPEZ was the only *Son* remaining of *three*, and paſſionately beloved by his *Mother*, *Donna* MARIA, who never let her *Huſband* reſt, till he had conſented to the Match, which he, at length, did, upon Condition that I would embrace the *Roman Catholic* Religion,

gion, which I made no Difficulty of doing, having taken Care before-hand, to ſhow no Averſion to it.

LÆTITIA.

You did right; for they are ſaid to be very ſuperſtitious in that Country, and look upon us as ſo many——

ALICE.

True, and govern'd in every Thing by their *Prieſts*. I found, indeed, afterwards that *Donna* MARIA's *Father Confeſſor* was the chief Inſtrument employ'd to bring the old Man into this Marriage, which was now publickly ſolemniz'd with no little Joy and Expence: But, would you believe it? I really grew fond of my *Huſband*. This young *Spaniard* had *Talents* I never diſcover'd in VENNER. It is ſcarce credible to what a Degree he lov'd me. Beſides, he was very handſom, and had ſomething ſo graceful, and ſo noble, and generous in his Behaviour, that my

Heart grew entirely his, before I had learnt enough of his Language to tell him ſo.

LÆTITIA.

It is no Wonder that in thoſe Circumſtances, and at ſuch an Age, you was pleas'd with your Condition.

ALICE.

I was never ſo happy.

LÆTITIA.

It is much you did not find yourſelf *Breeding* with all this.

ALICE.

That was what the old People paſſionately deſir'd. *Donna* MARIA examin'd me frequently in private upon this Head; but whether we were *over fond* of each other, as ſome thought——

LÆTI-

LÆTITIA.

Nay, not unlikely.

ALICE.

Or whatever elſe was the Cauſe, I can't tell. But not ſo much as a *Miſcarriage* happen'd, all the while we were at VERA CRUZ, which, indeed, was not very long.

LÆTITIA.

Prithee, what became of you afterwards?

ALICE.

You muſt know, old *Don* LOPEZ DE LAS HONDURAS, for ſo was our *Father* commonly call'd, had a Houſe, and no ſmall Buſineſs at ACAPULCO, not vaſtly diſtant from VERA CRUZ, which he thought proper now to reſign to his *Son*. There we liv'd ſome Time in great Plen-

ty, and much to our Satisfaction, till my *Huſband*'s Affairs oblig'd him to make a Viſit to certain *Merchants* at St. JAGO. He would needs lug me along with him; for, as I told you before, he lov'd me exceedingly, and to ſay the Truth, I had every Day more and more Reaſon to be contented with his Manner of acting towards me, which I cannot———

LÆTITIA.

Can you proceed in your *Adventures*?

ALICE.

In ſhort, the Time fix'd for our Departure came, and we choſe to coaſt it along by Sea, as the moſt commodious Way of travelling. Accordingly we embark'd in a ſmall *Veſſel*, and had almoſt made a favourable End of our Voyage, when a violent *Tempeſt* riſing of a ſudden one Night from the Shoar, blew us off into the Great SOUTH SEA. The next Morning we diſcover'd Part of the *Iſland* of CALIFORNIA;

FORNIA; but, the *Storm* ſtill continuing, we ſoon loſt Sight of any Land, and were now driven ſeveral Days and Nights at the Diſcretion of the Winds, and Waves. Our Proviſions grew ſcanty, and our little *Ship* took in ſuch large Quantities of Water, that ſhe was with great Difficulty preſerv'd from ſinking. Every Moment we expected to periſh, and *Don* LOPEZ and I had taken a *hundred Farewells*, when, to my great Surprize, our *Veſſel*, in the middle of the Night, inſtead of going to the Bottom, ſtruck on a Rock, and bulged into twenty Pieces.

LÆTITIA.

So that all were loſt, except yourſelf?

ALICE.

No; you ſhall hear. The ſame Part of the *Wreck* that brought me aſhore, had ſav'd, as I found the next Morning, old GOMEZ our *Ship's Carpenter*, who, I thought, would never have done thanking all

all the *Saints*, both male and female, that he could recollect, for this ſtrange Deliverance. For my Part, I confeſs, my firſt Thoughts were how to get out of the forlorn Condition I was in. So calling to GOMEZ, we laid our Heads together, and he made ſhift to build out of the Remains of our *Veſſel* a little *Hut* under the Shelter of the Rocks, while I pick'd up along the Shoar ſuch of our ſcatter'd Proviſions as I could find, which we ſhared very equally, and, I aſſure you, I never eat with a better Appetite in my Life. Hunger, you know, has been always reckon'd the beſt Sauce.

LÆTITIA.

Had you no Thought beſides that of taking Care of your own ſweet Perſon? How did the Loſs of *Don* LOPEZ ſet upon you?

ALICE.

If my frequent Wiſhes could have brought him to Life, he would have been in

in the Place of old GOMEZ. The Fears, Prayers, and Exhortations of that poor Wretch fill'd me with Melancholy, and added Weight to my Condition; eſpecially, when he aſſur'd me, that, according to the beſt Obſervations he could make, we had been caſt upon ſome *Iſland* or other in the Great SOUTH SEA, far from the Road of Traffic, or any hopes of Relief; that, in all Likelyhood, the *Iſland* was quite deſert, and uninhabited; but that, in Caſe we ſhould find it peopled, it muſt be by meer *Savages*, unknown to the reſt of the World.

LÆTITIA.

O' my Conſcience, a rare Comforter this ſame GOMEZ!

ALICE.

A *Job*'s Comforter, afaith! but you muſt know, we were now reliev'd by a very odd Accident.

LÆTI-

LÆTITIA.

As how, pray?

ALICE.

It happen'd that a young INDIAN PRINCE, who was hunting in that Quarter, and ſeparated from his Companions, ſtumbled upon us. We ſtared upon one another at a Diſtance for ſome Time, with no ſmall Surprize, as you may eaſily conceive; he having never ſeen, as I found afterwards, any *Europeans* before, nor we any *Indian* of that Quality; for he was as fine as *Gold* and *Feathers* could make him. Seeing us unarm'd, and not a little aſtoniſh'd at his Appearance, he ventur'd, after a while, to approach us, examining our Perſons and Dreſs very narrowly. After he had ſatisfy'd his Curioſity, he made Signs by which we gueſs'd he meant us no Harm; but, on the contrary, was pleas'd that he had diſcover'd us, and would do us what Service he could;

could; to confirm which, he preſented us with ſome *Birds* he had taken in his Sport, and led us to a *Spring* of freſh Water, which was not far off, when he took his Leave, and gave us to underſtand, as well as he could, that he would return the next Day to the Place, where he firſt met us.

LÆTITIA.

Well! was he as good as his Word?

ALICE.

A little Patience, and you ſhall know all. Water, you'll ſay, is, at beſt, but a cold Comfort. However, we quench'd our Thirſts very cordially at this new diſcover'd *Fountain*, when old GOMEZ made ſhift to light a Fire of dry'd Leaves, and Sticks, and by means of a Steel, and Flint, which he always had about him, and being ſomething of a *Cook*, prepar'd our Supper, as well as he was able. In ſhort, we eat up our *Birds* without Sauce, or knowing of

what Kind they were. Hunger, as I obſerv'd to you before———

LÆTITIA.

No more *Proverbs*, good ALICE; but to your *Story!*

ALICE.

I warrant you! when the *Belly* is full, the *Bones* would be at Reſt, they ſay; which now happen'd to us; for we had ſcarce ended our *Meal*, when we fell faſt aſleep in the ſmall *Tent* GOMEZ had contrived for us: and, I believe, I had not wak'd till the *Noon* following, had not I felt ſomething gently ſtroke my *Face*; when, opening my *Eyes*, who ſhould I behold but the INDIAN PRINCE, as punctual as the riſing *Sun* to his Engagement! There ſtood by him an old *Slave*, loaded with ſuch Fruits and Proviſions of all Sorts as that Region afforded. I was overjoy'd at our good *Fortune*, and had much ado to wake GOMEZ, whoſe Fatigues had put him into a deep Sleep, to partake of the *Prince*'s Bounty. This noble Youth's Generoſity,

nerosity, however, did not end here; for he led us about a Mile to a thick Wood, and there put us into the Possession of a *Cave*, or *Grotto*, the most *romantic* Place I ever saw, by the Side of a clear Water, which fell from a neighbouring Rock. This *Grotto* was of very difficult Access, and cover'd within Side with the Skins of *Leopards*, *Tygers*, *Lions*, and such wild Beasts as, I understood by his Signs, he had destroy'd himself in the Field. After a short Visit, though something longer than that of the Day before, he left us, and, at his Departure, seem'd to recommend the *Slave* he had brought with him to our Service, who stay'd behind his *Master*, and was, indeed, of no small Use to us.

LÆTITIA.

So!

ALICE.

After this the INDIAN PRINCE continu'd his Visits every Day for some Time very regularly about an Hour before Sunset, as near as I can guess, and left us al-

ways towards the Cloſe of Night; by which, and by his coming alone, I concluded, that the Party was to be quite private, and that he did not care any of his Companions ſhould be acquainted with the Diſcovery he had made.

LÆTITIA.

He thought, I ſuppoſe, to keep you all to himſelf.

ALICE.

I began to imagine as much; but you'll ſoon ſee, how he was diſappointed. Two Days had now paſs'd without any Tidings of our PRINCE, and *Protector*, which alarm'd us greatly, and the more becauſe the *Slave*, who waited on us, diſcover'd every now and then certain Signs of Fear, and Miſtruſt, and kept almoſt a conſtant Look-out at the *Cave*'s Mouth; but on a ſudden, he returns to us with great Joy, and was immediately follow'd by the young INDIAN, who had brought me ſuch *Ornaments* as the *Women* of that Nation wore, and made me Signs to put them on, which,

which, by his Help, I did, and was as fine as any *American Queen* could be for her Life.

LÆTITIA.

I imagine, you muſt have made a moſt odd, ridiculous Figure.

ALICE.

Not in his *Eyes*, I aſſure you. I thought he never would have done turning me about, and admiring me, in my new Dreſs; and I was now fully convinc'd, that there was ſomething ſtronger than Compaſſion at the Bottom of all this. In ſhort, 'twas with much ado that he prevail'd upon himſelf to leave me as the Night came on, having firſt made ſeveral Excuſes, which I did not then fully comprehend, for his Abſence the two foregoing Days. Scarce was he departed, when GOMEZ, who, as you have heard before, was a very devout Perſon, betook himſelf to his *Prayers*, and *Meditations*, in which he continu'd the beſt Part of the Night, waking me frequently with ſuch loud Groans, and Lamentations as one might have

have expected from the *Condemn'd's Hole.* Towards Morning I call'd out to him, and aſk'd him, whether he was not much fatigu'd with theſe long Exerciſes? and what might be the Meaning of them? I have been preparing, ſaid he, for the other World; for I don't think I have much longer Time to ſtay in this. How ſo, GOMEZ? quoth I. What may have given Riſe to ſo ſerious Reflections? We have eſcap'd, continu'd he, the Dangers of the *Ocean* to die in a more deplorable Manner here on Shoar. I don't know, whether you have yet had any Suſpicion of this INDIAN's Intention towards you; for my Part, I think, I can ſee it plainly. I am perſwaded, that all he has done, has been with no other View than that of *polluting* you. Now, as I am a good *Chriſtian*, it would be an unpardonable *Sin* in me to ſit tamely by, and ſuffer this *Pagan* quietly to profane your fair, and virtuous Body. I am already very old, and the ſmall Remnant of my Days may probably be ſpent amongſt *Savages*, and *Infidels*; for I ſee no Hopes of our ever eſcaping from hence:

I am

I am therefore reſolv'd, if there ſhould be an Occaſion, which I much ſuſpect, to defend your *Honour*, and *Integrity* to the laſt Drop of my Blood; and, I think, if *Providence* ſhould ſo call upon you, you could not expire your ſelf in a more glorious, and meritorious Cauſe, than in reſiſting the unclean Embraces of this miſguided INDIAN, who certainly worſhips the *Devil*, as they all do, whom we have already known, or heard of.

LÆTITIA.

Poor GOMEZ, hah! hah! hah! well! pray what Anſwer did you give the good Man?

ALICE.

Really at firſt I became ſo aſtoniſh'd at his ridiculous Reſolution, that I could return him no Anſwer at all; but was much concern'd to think how troubleſom and inconvenient he was likely to be. At length, recollecting my ſelf, I ſeem'd to make light of his Fears, for which, I told him, I thought he had not ſufficient Grounds;

Grounds ; however, return'd him my Thanks for his great Care, and Generoſity, and let him underſtand, that I did not deſpair of finding *Grace* enough, to act as I ought in Time of Need. He hop'd, he ſaid, that I ſhould do my *Duty*, and ſo we both fell aſleep, till the ſcreaming of *Parrots*, which were very numerous in thoſe Woods, wak'd us ſome Time after the *Sun* was up. Towards the Evening we perceived my young gallant INDIAN making croſs the Wood to us, accompany'd by Another Man. Upon a nearer Approach, we diſcover'd by their Dreſs and Geſtures, that they were Equals, and Intimates. But I imagind I ſaw at the ſame Time ſomething in the Air of my *Spark* which look'd like Uneaſineſs and Conſtraint, and which ſeem'd to tell me, he had rather have been in private with me. The *Stranger* ſurvey'd me with no ſmall Surprize, and by his Actions intimated, as I gueſs'd, to his *Friend* an entire Approbation of my Perſon, while the other, I found, contriv'd this *Viſit* ſhould

be

be as ſhort as poſſible, making the uſual Signs to me, as he went away, of returning the next Evening, which, however, he was diſappointed in.

LÆTITIA.

How ſo?

ALICE.

I'll tell you. About the middle of the Night, when we were faſt aſleep, this ſame *Stranger*, and two of his Attendants ruſh into the *Cave*, arm'd with *Clubs*, and bearing *lighted Sticks* of Wood, which ſupply'd the Want of *Torches*.

LÆTITIA.

So!

ALICE.

We were ſoon wak'd, and frighted not a little, as you may eaſily conceive, by ſuch an Alarm; but I was much more ſurpriz'd when this bold *Savage* made directly towards me, and would have *raviſh'd* me immediately before them all, had not Go-

MEZ flown that Moment to my Aſſiſtance.

LÆTITIA.

Hah! hah! hah! hah!

ALICE.

But he paid ſomething of the deareſt for it. One of the Attendants up with his *Club*, and beat out the Brains of this poor, meddling Wretch.

LÆTITIA.

GOMEZ, as it happened, was no bad *Prophet* in relation to his going ſoon out of this World. So that, I ſuppoſe, you had but a ſhort Reſpite from the *Rape* which was intended you.

ALICE.

I now, indeed, did belong to the *Invader* by Right of *Arms*, who, diſmiſſing his Servants, made the beſt Uſe he could of his Conqueſt till Break of Day, and then abandon'd me. However, I was not long in this ſolitary Condition; for the

Cave

Cave was immediately ſurrounded by armed Men from different Parts of the Wood, who forc'd me into a kind of cloſe *Sedan*, from whence I could ſcarce ſee any thing, and, hoiſting me upon their Shoulders, bore me by Turns a conſiderable Way; for it was towards Evening before they ſat me down, when I found myſelf in a ſpacious *Court* amongſt old Women, who conducted me to an Apartment, where, after they had bath'd, and perfum'd me, they waited on me at *Supper*, and afterwards carry'd me to *Bed*.

LÆTITIA.

What in the Name of Wonder, ALICE, might all this mean?

ALICE.

Know, that the young INDIAN, who firſt diſcovered us on the Shoar, was *Prince* QUIZQUIZ, Son of the chief Miniſter to QUANQUAN, *Emperor* of the MERRIGULS, in whoſe Territories, it ſeems, we were; that the Perſon who raviſh'd me in the *Cave*, was another young

Lord of the *Court* of MERRIGUL, a profeſs'd *Friend* to QUIZQUIZ; but a *Traytor*, as you have found, upon this Occaſion. He was the only one of all QUIZQUIZ's Companions whom he truſted with his Secret, and had much ado to perſwade QUIZQUIZ to let him have a Sight of me. The *Slave* QUIZQUIZ had put about my Perſon, fearing the ſame Fate which had deſtroy'd old GOMEZ, fled, and ſpread the *Alarm*. The News of a *new Woman*'s being found on the Coaſt of MERRIGUL ſoon reach'd the *Officers* of the *Talpod*, ſo the royal *Seraglio* was nam'd, who ſeiz'd upon me for the *Emperor*'s Uſe, according to the Cuſtom of that Country.

LÆTITIA.

So that you was now in the Imperial *Seraglio*.

ALICE.

I was, and in the Middle of QUANQUAN's Capital *City*; for we had been caſt away upon the very *Iſland* of his Reſidence, which ſtood amongſt many other

Iſles,

Iſles, over which he rul'd by his *Vice-Roys* and *Governors*. My *Adventures* in this Place have been thought well worth hearing; but they did not begin immediately. A new Comer was to be inſtructed in ſeveral Things, before ſhe could have the *Honour* of being preſented to the *Emperor*.

LÆTITIA.

Prithee what were your Leſſons?

ALICE.

Our firſt Care was to learn the *Language* of the *Court*, very different from the *vulgar Tongue*. When we grew pretty perfect in this, and had all the Expreſſions proper to be us'd to our great *Maſter*, we were call'd upon to ſtudy the different Advantages, and Charms of *Dreſs*, and particularly admoniſh'd, that *Beauty*, *Cleanneſs*, and *Deſire* ſhould ever go hand in hand, as the three *Cardinal Virtues* of the *Talpod*, or *Seraglio*. We next practic'd the Graces of *Dancing*, and *Muſic*, which laſt had a great Part in the *Religion* of the MERRIGULS. Having paſs'd through what I tell you,

you, we apply'd our ſelves to *Leaping*, *Shooting* with Arrows, *Darting*, *Running*, and preparing the *Emperor*'s favourite *Drinks*, and a few choice *Diſhes*. This was done, that we might be of Uſe to our Monarch in the *Field*, either at his Parties of *Hunting*, or in *War*; for ſome or other of us was choſen to attend him whereſoever he went. The laſt Article of our Diſcipline, and what was thought of the higheſt Importance, conſiſted in the *Exerciſes*.

LÆTITIA.

What do you mean by the *Exerciſes*?

ALICE.

So the old Women, who were charg'd with our Education, term'd that Part of it, which concern'd the *Emperor*'s more *private Pleaſures*. Our Inſtructions in this Point were, firſt, the *Confuſion*; then the *Conflict*; the *Reſignation*; the *Tranſport*; and, laſtly, the *Repoſe*.

LÆTI-

LÆTITIA.

I confeſs, I don't yet rightly underſtand you.

ALICE.

The *Confuſion* was attended by a timerous Diffidence, ſoft Bluſhes, and a conſcious Unworthineſs of the high *Honour* the happy *Victim* was juſt going to receive. The *Conflict* was but weak, and ſhort, ſerving only to recommend the *Reſignation*, which was to be abſolute, and not without a Kind of Devotion. The *Tranſport* required ſuch Sincerity, and Warmth as is eaſier conceiv'd, than expreſs'd: and the *Repoſe* was order'd to be ſudden, decent, diſtant, and expectant on the Royal Signal.

LÆTITIA.

I am no longer in the dark. hah! hah! hah! hah!

ALICE.

My poor *Miſtreſs* SYRISCA, whoſe Memory ſhall be ever dear to me, had a great Opinion

Opinion of the *Exerciſes*, and was wont to ſay, ſhe could write a whole Volume upon thoſe few Words as large as *Fox*'s *Martyrs*, or *Baker*'s *Chronicles*. When we were exact in theſe Things, we enjoy'd ſeveral Privileges unknown to us before; and were lodg'd in the upper *Court* adjoining to the *Emperor*'s Apartment, whoſe *Bed* we were now in our Turns intitled to. In the Morning of the Day before my Preferment to the royal *Couch* I was viſited by certain *Matrons*, whoſe Office it was to ſee if the Woman next upon the *Liſt* was in fit Condition to be preſented to our great *Maſter*. The Chief of the old Women, who was, indeed, *Governeſs* of the *Seraglio*, waited upon me that Evening, and preſenting me, according to Cuſtom, with the *Golden Mallet*, ordered me in Form to make my Appearance the next Night before the *Emperor*, exhorting me at the ſame Time to a ſtrict Obſervance of my Duty in every Point; then, wiſhing me *Joy*, *Favour*, and *Fruitfulneſs*, ſhe retir'd.

LÆTITIA.

This, I ſuppoſe, was the uſual Ceremony; but, pray, what might ſhe mean by the *golden Mallet?*

ALICE.

That will very ſoon be known to you. The *Governeſs* had ſcarce departed, before my Apartment was full of old Women, the ſame I found at my firſt coming, who bore me in an open *Chair* to the great *Bath*, congratulating me all the Way upon my Advancement to the Imperial *Bed*. I here went through ſome Ceremonies, which I knew not before, and which, the Learned ſay, may be call'd *Ablution*, *Perfrication*, and *Fumigation*; and ſo paſs'd afterwards the whole Night alone in Meditation upon what was to be done on the next. Early in the Morning I was ſaluted from the *Court* below by the *Emperor*'s *Muſicians*, and treated all that Day with the ſame Pomp and Magnificence as was uſed towards QUANQUAN himſelf. As ſoon as the *Sun* went down, a *Banquet*

was ſerv'd up to me, which ended, I was wheel'd in a ſmall *Car* of Gold to the *Emperor*'s Apartment, the old *Governeſs*, I already mention'd, walking before me. When we arriv'd at the Door, I ſtept out of the *Car*, and knocking thrice with the *golden Mallet*, return'd it to the *Governeſs*, who left me, as ſoon as the *Officers* of the royal *Chambers* had opened to me, and received me from her Hands, which they did immediately, conducting me inſtantly to the *Emperor*'s Bed-ſide, and retiring afterwards with Precipitation. So you now ſee the Uſe of this little *golden Mallet?*

LÆTITIA.

Purely a Thing of Ceremony, I find.

ALICE.

And handed from one to another as our Turns fell out to attend the *Emperor*. It was firſt inſtituted by the Predeceſſor of QUANQUAN, who order'd it ſhould lay a whole Day before us, to put us in mind of our approaching Duty, and by Degrees it came to ſignify the Duty itſelf; for inſtead

ſtead of ſaying ſuch a Woman is next upon the *Liſt*, or ſuch a Perſon is ordered for to-morrow Night, it was uſual to ſay, this, or that *Lady* has the *golden Mallet*.

LÆTITIA.

Good! but I am impatient to know the reſt.

ALICE.

The *Emperor*, whom I had never ſeen till that Moment, was between *Fifty*, and *Threeſcore*; but hail, robuſt, and of a wholſom Complection. His *Eyes* were bright, and piercing; his *Countenance* was graceful, and majeſtical; but, withal, open, and ſmiling, and he had nothing forbidding in it, or in his *Manner*, which was noble, and inviting. As to his *Stature*, if he had not ſtoop'd pretty much, he might have been reckon'd amongſt the Talleſt. After he had finiſh'd the loooking into ſome *Diſpatches*, which he was at that Time peruſing, he thruſt the * *Tablets* of *Cotton*,

* The MERRIGULS had learnt no other Method of converſing at a Diſtance.

where his Intelligence was wrought, under the Pillow, and caſting his *Eyes* on me, commanded me to walk round the *Chamber*, which was adorn'd with ſo many ſhining Stones, and reflecting Lights, that the ſmalleſt Object might have been view'd as diſtinctly as at Noon Day. When he had fully ſatisfy'd his Sight, he made a Sign to me to approach him, upon which I laid myſelf gently by his Side, according to the Inſtructions I had before received.

LÆTITIA.

So!

ALICE.

The Article of *Confuſion* I acted to Admiration, and, I believe, the better, becauſe I was really under ſome Concern for my firſt Performance. The ſecond Part of our Exerciſe———

LÆTITIA.

You mean the *Conflict*.

I got

ALICE.

I got through pretty well. The third, which was the *Reſignation*, I think, I may ſay, I excell'd in; but when we came to the *Tranſport*, as that did not altogether depend upon me, I was obliged to ſtop ſhort: QUANQUAN did not ſo much as give me the leaſt Pretence to counterfeit my Part of it.

LÆTITIA.

Hah! hah! hah! alaſs! poor QUANQUAN!

ALICE.

In a Word, after ſome Efforts, as ridiculous as vain, the *Emperor* grew enrag'd, and calling out for his firſt *Miniſter*, who, by the eſtabliſh'd Cuſtom of that Country, was his chief *Phyſician* too, How comes it, *Slave*, quoth he, that in Spite of the many *Drugs* I have ſwallow'd down, and all your fine Promiſes, I ſtill meet with a Continuation of this *Weakneſs*? Dread *Lord* of the MERRIGULS, anſwer'd the trembling

trembling *Miniſter* upon his Knees, humane Art muſt yield to ſupernatural Power! Nothing leſs could thus have illuded my Skill! your ſacred *Majeſty* is *bewitch'd!* the Force of *Inchantments* only muſt needs have retarded the Accompliſhment of that Strength, I have ſo long, and faithfully laboured to procure! The *Emperor*, naturally ſuperſtitious, liſten'd to this Man, and ordering, immediately, all the *Temples* in the *City* to be thrown open, and the *Idols* to be conſulted for the true Cauſe, and Remedy of this Diſorder, went forth, to aſſiſt in Perſon at the chief *Temple*, attended by his *Courtiers*, and *Guards*.

LÆTITIA.

So that you was now left alone?

ALICE.

The ſame Women who had convey'd me before to the great *Bath*, carry'd me back to my old *Quarters*, not a little mortify'd that this Accident happen'd while I was upon Duty. Nay, I was under ſome Concern leaſt our great *Maſter*'s Diſgrace might

might be imputed to any Thing about my Perſon, eſpecially, ſeeing I was a *Stranger* of ſo diſtant a Country, and had ſome Enemies beſides amongſt the Women in the *Seraglio*, as I was under-hand inform'd. I knew not how far their Jealouſies, and Malice might carry them; but quite the contrary fell out.

LÆTITIA.

Prithee tell me then what were the Effects of this ſolemn Enquiry in the *Temples?*

ALICE.

The *Idols*, you muſt know, were mute, and ſullen for three Days, and three Nights ſucceſſively. On the fourth Morning, the *Emperor*, impatient of an Anſwer, order'd that an extraordinary *Sacrifice* ſhould be made, when, as the *Devil* would have it, they broke *Silence*, and ſure nothing leſs than the *Devil* himſelf could have inſpir'd them with what they told. Take it, as I got it tranſlated from their Verſes into *Engliſh* Meeter.

Dread

Dread Lord *of the People of* MERRIGUL *Iſles!*
Thy Wiſh *is accompliſh'd, thy* Deſtiny *ſmiles.*
Conſult thy own * Talpod, *and there thou ſhalt find*
A Stranger, *to give thee the* Peace *of thy Mind.*

Not a Word more with all their Prayers and Vows could they draw from their *Gods*, and ſo the Enquiry ended. The *Seraglio* was immediately ranſack'd for *Foreigners.* Amongſt all the Women, which were there in no ſmall Number, *Four Strangers* only were to be found beſides myſelf, and all thoſe of different Parts of AMERICA. The reſt were either Natives of MERRIGUL, or of the adjacent *Iſlands*; but I knew little of them; for we *Strangers* were forced to herd very much together. The *Merrigulean Ladies*, being in continual *Cabals* againſt us, ſhun'd our Converſation as often as they could. *Strangers*, you know, are generally hated, and deſpis'd all the World over; more eſpecially when they are ſettled from home, however, I think, I was, at laſt, pretty even with them, as you ſhall find anon.

* It has been before obſerv'd, that the Word *Talpod* ſignifies a *Seraglio.*

LÆTI-

LÆTITIA.

No more Reflections, good ALICE; but to the Matter! The *Seraglio*, you ſay, was diligently viſited for *Strangers*.

ALICE.

It was ſo; and every one of us duly, and ſtrictly examin'd concerning the *Cauſe* of the *Emperor*'s *Malady*, and the Means of his *Cure*; but none of the *Four*, I have mention'd, could give any ſatisfactory Anſwer to either of the Queſtions propos'd: that was reſerv'd for PATAPA alone; for it was under the Name of PATAPA, that I liv'd in the *Seraglio*.

LÆTITIA.

PATAPA!

ALICE.

Which Word, you are to underſtand, in their Language ſignifies the *Foundling*. Now as I was the laſt upon the *Liſt* of the *Emperor*'s *Concubines*, my Examination did not come on till that of the other

Four Strangers was finiſh'd, which afforded me a good Opportunity of reflecting on what I ſhould ſay. After ſome Thought, it came into my Mind, that one JOAKIM, an old *Jew*, and a great *Traveller*, who uſed to frequent my *Lord Embaſſador*'s Houſe, and make up all the *Chocolate* we conſum'd in the Family. This *Jew*, I ſay, came into my Head; for he often vaunted, amongſt other Secrets, that he was the only Perſon then in EUROPE who poſſeſs'd a certain *Oriental Root*, the *Juice* of which was an *infallible Remedy* againſt *Impotency*; that he had bought this Knowledge very dear at the *Court* of PERSIA; and that, at the Inſtigation of a very great Man, he had then receiv'd a ſmall Portion of it from the *Eaſt* at a monſtrous Expence, ſome Fragments of which he ſhow'd us, with a *Leaf* of the *Tree* to which this *Root* did belong. Now, ſays I to myſelf, if this ſame *Tree* may be found in theſe Parts, my *Fortune*'s made for ever. The Form of the *Leaf* I well remember'd, which was long, and *ſharp*, and very *rough* on one Side, and having likewiſe taſted

taſted ſome few Scrapings of the Chips, which JOAKIM had preſerv'd, I recollected perfectly the Savour of the Wood, which was moſt *grateful* to the Palate; but left withal a little *Bitterneſs* behind it. By theſe Marks I gueſs'd I could not eaſily be miſtaken in the *Tree*, and therefore, at once, to ſatisfy my Revenge, and in Hopes of ſucceeding in the *Emperor*'s Cure, I anſwer'd boldly, when it came to my Turn to ſpeak, that QUANQUAN's *Impotency* was occaſion'd by the *ſecret Practices*, and *Inchantments* of the *Merrigul* Women in the *Seraglio*, who choſe rather to behold their ſovereign *Lord* in that deplorable Condition, than to divide his gracious Favours with us *Strangers*; that, as to his *Cure*, I knew but of one *Remedy*, which, however, was *infallible*, provided it could be had in his *Dominions*.

LÆTITIA.

So!

ALICE.

All this I pronounc'd with ſo much Earneſtneſs, and Concern, and with ſuch

an Air of Confidence, that I gain'd the Faith of the *Inquiſitors*, who immediately ran to the *Emperor*, and congratulated him upon ſo favourable a Proſpect of Succeſs. *Emiſſaries* were forthwith diſpatch'd to the adjacent *Iſlands*, and every Part of QUANQUAN's *Dominions* to bring before me a *Leaf* of each *Tree* in his *Empire*, that I might from thence diſcover the *Root* ſo much deſir'd. From the talleſt *Cedar* in the Foreſt to the vileſt *Shrub* that grows upon the Heath, Samples of every Kind were collected, and there was not a *Courtier* in MERRIGUL that did not commence *Botaniſt* upon this extraordinary Occaſion. Vain was my Search for a conſiderable Time. At length, when I had almoſt deſpair'd of finding what I ſought for, a *Leaf* was privately brought me by a very induſtrious, and aſſiduous old *Courtier*, which I preſently knew to belong to the *Tree* in Queſtion.

LÆTITIA.

Doubtleſs your Joy was great.

ALICE.

ALICE.

Not to be expreſs'd! that too of the MERRIGULS was no leſs; for they lov'd their *Emperor* even to Exceſs for his great Affability, and generous Deportment towards them, Public Diverſions were order'd for three Days together throughout the *Capital*, and *five* Handfuls of *Rice* diſtributed to each MERRIGUL; a much greater *Largeſs* than ever the *Populace* received from any preceeding *Emperor* whatever. But while this Mirth and Feaſting went on ſucceſsfully without Doors, a ſudden Damp fell upon our Rejoycings within the Palace; for it was found upon Examination that the *Leaf*, which I had received from this old *Courtier*, was pluck'd from that ſame *Tree*, which ſhaded the *Temple* of MAMMAMUCCA, a *Goddeſs* held in the higheſt Degree of Veneration amongſt the People of MERRIGUL, who were jealous of her Rites even to a Superſtition little leſs than Madneſs. This *Tree* was very ancient, and of an enormous Size, covering with its

its Branches the whole Circumference of the *Temple*, where it had flouriſh'd Time out of Mind, and was ſuppoſed to have been planted by the firſt Founders of the *Empire*. The great Reſpect it bore, not only for its Antiquity; but becauſe it ſcreen'd, and defended this ſo ſacred, and beloved *Dome*, the grand Repoſitory of the moſt valuable *Archives* of the whole Nation, gave us ſome Pauſe. 'Tis true, we only wanted the *Root* of it, to effect our Deſign.

LÆTITIA.

But how to come at that, without felling the *Tree* it ſelf?

ALICE.

A ſecret *Council* was now held in QUANQUAN's private Apartment to conſider of this perplexing Affair. The *Emperor*, the old *Courtier*, who brought me the *Leaf*, and my ſelf were the only Perſons judg'd proper to aſſiſt at this *Cabal*, where, after various Debates, it was, at length, reſolved to follow the old *Courtier*'s Advice, which

which was to *hew down* the *Tree* upon the firſt *ſtormy Night* in ſuch a Manner as that the MERRIGULS might have Room to ſuppoſe it fell purely through Wind, and the Decays of Time. *Hurricanes* have ever been very frequent in that Country, ſo that it was not long before we had a favourable Opportunity of putting our Project in Execution. We *Three* then ſtole out with the firſt Wind that ſeconded our Intention at the Dead of Night from a back Door belonging to the *Palace*, and having arm'd our ſelves with Inſtruments *ſuitable* to the Purpoſe, we made ſtrait to the deſtin'd *Tree*, and fell to Work with all our Might. The *Emperor* QUANQUAN gave the firſt Stroke, as being our *Chief*, and more immediately concern'd in the Matter. The old *Courtier* laid about him tightly; for beſides that he had the Reputation of being a ſtrong Man for his Years, his *Hatchet* was of the heavieſt. At laſt, I came in with my *Saw*, and finiſh'd the Buſineſs.

LÆTITIA.

So that now this venerable *Tree* was levell'd to the Ground.

ALICE.

It was ſo; but had nigh-hand cruſh'd ſome of us. QUANQUAN's *Heel* was a little *bruis'd* by its Fall.

LÆTITIA.

There was no ſmall Commotion, I imagine, next Morning amongſt the People.

ALICE.

Nothing near ſo great as we apprehended. 'Tis true, the MERRIGULS aſſembled in Crouds about the fallen *Tree*; and ſome few indeed, with *Tears* in their *Eyes*. Others ſeem'd quite *ſtupify'd* with Wonder, and Amazement, as never once dreaming ſuch a Thing could poſſibly happen. Several, looking upon what had come to paſs to be the pure Work of *Providence*, return'd to their Houſes with Patience, and Reſignation. Many were pretty *in-*

different

different about the Matter, hoping the ill Conſequences, that might follow, were not immediate: perhaps, quoth they, the Evil won't fall in our Days; perhaps, not at all; who knows? there was found amongſt them no ſmall Number of *deſperate*, and *unſettled* Folks, who in their Hearts were privately *glad* at this ſudden Ruin of the *Tree*. But the greater Part were *amus'd* by the full, and uninterrupted *Liberty* which was granted to all of plucking, and eating the Fruit, which grew in Abundance, was very pleaſing to the *Palate*, and endued with ſuch an *intoxicating* Virtue as infatuated the Multitude. In ſhort, the *Branches* were ſoon ſtripp'd, and the *Roots* convey'd with Secrecy into the *Palace*, which, indeed, coſt us ſome Pains, and Trouble; for they had ſpread far, and deep in the Earth, in ſo much, that without this Violence, the *Tree*, in all Likelihood, might have weather'd out many *Centuries* more.

LÆTITIA.

Your next Buſineſs, I ſuppoſe, was to extract the *Juice*.

ALICE.

Which I did juſt in the Manner, I remember'd, the *Jew* had mention'd. I ſucceeded even beyond my Expectation; for in a little Time the *Emperor* found ſuch an *Increaſe of Vigour*, as well-nigh equall'd that of the ſtrongeſt of his *Anceſtors*. He grew, beſides, ſo enamour'd of me, that he was uneaſy when I was not with him. My dear PATAPA, he oft would ſay, I wiſh for nothing ſo much as one of thy *Offspring* to ſucceed me in the *Throne* of MERRIGUL!

LÆTITIA.

What Pity it is, you did not give him an *Heir!* hah! hah! hah! This puts me in Mind of an old *Lover* of mine.

ALICE.

As it was, I did whatever I had a Mind to, and feather'd my Neſt rarely, ſelling Places,

Places, and Pardons, Mercy, and Revenge to the higheſt Bidders, till, by Degrees, I got the whole Management of the *State* into my Hands, and was as proſperous as abſolute Power could make me.

LÆTITIA.

And inſolent enough, I warrant you!

ALICE.

You may readily conceive, that I did not want for Flatterers to puff up my Vanity. At laſt, I grew giddy, and whimſical with too much Authority, and led the *Emperor* into a thouſand Extravagancies, which preſently put an End to him.

LÆTITIA.

And, conſequently, I imagine, to your Command.

ALICE.

A little Patience, and you ſhall hear a ſtrange Revolution in my *Fortune*. But firſt I muſt tell you, that the *Temple* of MAMMAMUCCA, for Want of its former

 Defence,

Defence, and now expos'd to the *Storms* which happen almoſt daily in MERRIGUL, fell to Ruin, and the ſacred *Archives* of that Nation, which were with ſuch Care treaſured up in it, being by this Occaſion expos'd to the open Air, ſoon either *moulder'd away*, or became a *Prey* to the firſt *Pilferers*. The *Emperor* by my Means, amongſt other Curioſities, got the famous *magical Horn* into his Poſſeſſion, an Inſtrument which his *Predeceſſors* had been oblig'd by Article to *reſign* to the People, it having once been their greateſt Grievance; for while the *Emperors* of MERRIGUL were pleaſed to wind this *Horn*, their *Subjects* had not Power to hold their *Water*. QUANQUAN was ſo fond of his new Acquiſition, that he quickly blew himſelf into a violent *Conſumption*, and if he had not died, as he did, the whole *Empire*, for ought I know, might have piſs'd itſelf into a *Diabetes*, which happen'd in all Probability under his *Succeſſors*.

LÆTITIA.

Hah! hah! hah! hah!

ALICE.

ALICE.

As for me, the *Emperor* had no ſooner departed, but I was tranſported to an old neighbouring *Palace* belonging to the *Royal* Houſe of MERRIGUL, and treated with far more Care, and greater Marks of Reſpect than I had met with even during QUANQUAN's Life-time, which made me imagine, for a little while, that I was really deſtin'd by the People to ſucceed him in his *Throne*, notwithſtanding the Abuſe of Power which I was ſo conſcious I had been guilty of; but I was ſoon convinc'd of my *Error*, and found, to my great Surprize, and Sorrow, that they were now but pampering me as a *Victim* to their deceas'd *Monarch*'s *Shade*, with whom, it ſeems, I was order'd to be interr'd alive, purſuant to a Cuſtom in that Country, hitherto unknown to me, of ſacrificing in this Manner to the *Manes* of the dead *King* that *Concubine*, which had been beſt belov'd by him while alive.

LÆTITIA.

A moſt ſtrange Revolution indeed!

ALICE.

Accordingly I was in a few Days led forth with all the *Pomp* you can imagine, being clad at the ſame Time in the moſt magnificent Ornaments that could be invented. All the *Officers* of the *Imperial* Houſhold ſurrounded me, marching in ſolemn Order, and with the deepeſt Expreſſions of *Grief* for their loſt *Maſter*, which were, however, ſometimes interrupted by the Tokens of Joy, and Congratulation which they ſhow'd me upon the great *Honour* I was then juſt going to receive of being caſt into the ſame *Monument* with their beloved, and once gracious *Sovereign Lord* QUANQUAN, *Emperor* of the MERRIGULS.

LÆTITIA.

No Doubt, you were in a Peck of Troubles! hah! hah! hah!

ALICE.

ALICE.

A Troop of *Muſicians* went juſt before me, who, with the Noiſe of their various Inſtruments, drown'd my hideous Cries, and woful Lamentations.

LÆTITIA.

Hah! hah! hah!

ALICE.

A Native of MERRIGUL might, perhaps, have behaved better upon this Occaſion, and have been more ſenſible of her approaching *Glory*; but, I muſt confeſs, my Affliction was immoderate, and little leſs than Diſtraction itſelf, till arriving near the fatal Place where I was to take a laſt Farewell of the *Sun*, and all human Objects, my old Friend QUIZQUIZ ſtopp'd the *Proceſſion*, and generouſly reſcu'd me from the very Jaws of *Death*. This young *Prince*, it ſeems, ever ſince his firſt Diſcovery of me on the Coaſt of MERRIGUL, nouriſh'd in ſecret the ſame *Paſſion*, which my Perſon at that Time had inſpir'd him withal,

withal, a *Paſſion* the moſt ſincere and violent that, it may be, ever attack'd the Heart of Man. And, indeed, the *Paſſions* I at any Time caus'd, have been always remarkably laſting: a ſtrange *Fatality* ſtill attended the Effects of my *Beauty*, and all my *Lovers*, none excepted———

LÆTITIA.

Speak to the Purpoſe, ALICE, and don't be ſo fulſom. QUIZQUIZ, you ſay, came in to your Reſcue.

ALICE.

Not by Violence, and Force of *Arms*, as, I ſuppoſe, you conceive. No! There was an old *Law*, yet ſubſiſting in the Nation, by which, if any Man could claim a prior Engagement with the Perſon thus deſtin'd, as I was, to attend the *Defunct* to the other *World*, of which, by the by, theſe MERRIGUL INDIANS believe the ſtrangeſt, and moſt unaccountable Stories.———

LÆTI-

LÆTITIA.

I conceive you. QUIZQUIZ took this Opportunity of pleading his former Pretenſions to you, and, by that means, ſaved you from the imminent Danger you was in, of being lock'd up in the *Tomb* with your former *Paramour*, the Emperor QUANQUAN.

ALICE.

And marry'd me upon the Spot, as the ſame *Law* requir'd.

LÆTITIA.

Moſt notable Changes! So that within a ſhort Compaſs of Time, you was a *Royal Miſtreſs*, a prime *Favourite* at *Court*, a condemn'd *Victim*, and a *Wife*.

ALICE.

Even ſo. Nor was it long before my new *Spouſe*, the Lord QUIZQUIZ, retir'd with me to his *Government*, a neighbouring *Iſland*, which, from containing the *Emperor*'s chief *Manufacture* of *Cotton*,

was ſtyl'd SPHINA-CANN, or the COTTON ISLAND. Here we liv'd in no ſmall State, till an Accident, as remarkable as any of the former, ſeparated us for ever.

LÆTITIA.

As how? pray.

ALICE.

Firſt I muſt tell you, that, notwithſtanding the mighty Obligations I had to QUIZQUIZ, and the tender Concern which he always ſhow'd for me, I never could find in my Heart to have the leaſt real Affection for him. On the contrary, there was ſomething in QUIZQUIZ that gave me an Averſion to him. I own, he poſſeſs'd an hundred good Qualities; but *Nature*, it ſeems, had deny'd him that *Secret* of *Pleaſing*, which my young *Spaniſh* Huſband, *Don* LOPEZ enjoy'd in ſo ſovereign a Degree. Not to keep you longer in Suſpence, it now happen'd by the greateſt Chance in the World, that bad Weather obliged an *Europæan Veſſel* to anchor upon our *Shoar*. The Sight of a *Ship* caus'd

caus'd as much Joy in me, as it did Aſtoniſhment in the *Natives*, who had never before ſeen any thing of that Kind better than the *Canoos* which they employ'd to tranſport themſelves from one adjacent *Iſland* to the other. No ſooner did I behold this agreeable *Object*, than I conceived Hopes of ſeeing *Europe* once again, and even began to form Projects for the Execution of what I ſo paſſionately deſir'd. From our *Manſion*, which ſtood on an Eminence, I obſerv'd the *Mariners* on the *Beach*, who had found out a *Spring* of freſh Water, and were buſy'd in filling their *Caſks*. In the mean Time, the Inhabitants of the *Iſland* were in ſo terrible a Conſternation, that they thought fit, not only not to interrupt them; but not to appear at all, which favour'd the *Plan* I at length reſolved upon for my Eſcape. In ſhort, as ſoon as it grew duſkiſh, I ſtole down the back Side of the *Hill*, by a narrow, unfrequented *Path*, and approach'd the *Sailors*, who were ſtill at Work, and finding they were *Engliſh*, I no longer heſitated about the Matter; but deliver'd my

ſelf into their Hands, deſiring to be carry'd immediately to their *Commander*, which was accordingly perform'd by the next Return of their *Boat*. Now what Words can expreſs to you the Surprize I was in, when I found I was brought before JACK VENNER?

LÆTITIA.

How! Your *Guardian* of BRISTOL's Brother! Your firſt *Gallant*.

ALICE.

The ſame.

LÆTITIA.

Wonderful! I muſt confeſs.

ALICE.

JACK, ſtill as profligate as ever, had now turn'd *Pirate* on Board a *Ship* of his Brother's, in Company with one *Captain* CHARLES TEMPEST, a notorious *Robber* on the *High Seas*. JACK, you may gueſs, was not a little overjoy'd, and aſtoniſh'd, to recover his old *Play-Fellow* in this Manner.

ner. But *Captain* TEMPEST, who was a brutiſh, choleric Fellow, and a moſt intereſted *Villain* into the Bargain, ſwore by his terrible *black Whiſkers*, his uſual Oath, that I ſhould meet with no Protection, or Entertainment on *Board*, unleſs I had brought along with me wherewithal to defray my Charges; that his Articles did not oblige him to provide for VENNER's *Trulls*, and ſo forth. In a Word, he grew ſo obſtreperous, and abuſive, that I thought it muſt have ended in a Quarrel between theſe two *Heroes*; but they were both appeas'd, when they hear'd there was good Store of *Gold* in the *Iſland*, which I promis'd to put them in Poſſeſſion of.

LÆTITIA.

So!

ALICE.

I ſoon found Means to let *Prince* QUIZQUIZ underſtand, that I had been taken *Priſoner* by theſe People, as I was walking out careleſſly near our *Caſtle*, and that they inſiſted upon what *Gold* he had by

by him for my *Ranſom*, which I deſir'd he would bring as ſoon as poſſible to the *Ship*. The next Morning early the ſimple INDIAN came loaded to the *Sea* ſide, and, with ſome few of his Attendants, was receiv'd on *Board* our *Veſſel*, which ſet *Sail* that Inſtant.

LÆTITIA.

Was there ever ſuch an ungrateful, treacherous *Jade!* hah! hah! hah! hah! I ſwear, the very Counterpart of * INKLE and YARICO of famous Memory! for I ſuppoſe poor QUIZQUIZ was ſold, or ſhown for a *Sight* at the firſt *Port* you came to; or, perhaps, thrown over *Board*. Hah! hah! hah!

ALICE.

No; he dy'd of meer Grief, and Vexation in a few Days. The reſt of my *Adventures*, and *Rambles* for many Years till VENNER was hang'd at *Execution-Dock* are ſcarce worth your Hearing. To

* Spectator, Vol. I.

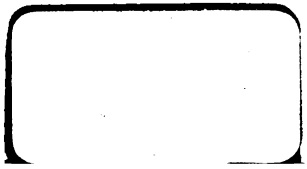
conclude,

conclude, when JACK was diſcover'd, and taken up at WAPPING, all we were worth in the World, and that not inconſiderable, was ſeiz'd by the *Officers* of *Juſtice*, which had never happen'd, if he would have taken my Advice. Nay, I my ſelf perhaps, might have been executed with him, had I not made a timely Retreat. This Misfortune reduc'd me to Servitude. I liv'd in ſeveral good *Places*; but could ſettle long no where, before I enter'd my ſelf at SYRISCA's; there I continued, till her untimely *Death* ſet me adrift again, when, *Sickneſs* and *Old Age* coming on, I found my ſelf obliged to accept of the ſmall Pittance I now receive from the *Pariſh*.

LÆTITIA.

Your *Adventures*, ALICE, are *ſurprizing* enough, and, did I not know you well, I ſhould be ſo far from believing them *Genuine*, as to conclude you had been repeating ſome *Romance* or other to me all this while. In Return, while I dreſs my

Head,

x!

x!